

THE  
True Englishman's Choice  
OF  
**Parliament = Men.**  
IN  
Answer to a Paper Intituled,  
THE  
**DANGER**  
OF  
*Mercenary Parliaments.*  
WITH  
Short Observations what Persons ought  
chiefly to be avoided in Elections.

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( 1 )

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In Answer to a Paper Entitled,  
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*Danger of Mercenary Parliaments.*

**T**HAT the well Meaning People of *England* may not be imposed on, by the Treacherous Disguises of Men of Foreign Allegiance, either to the *Shadow* of a King, or the *Idol* at *Rome*; 'twill be requisite to detect that Specious Address to 'em, which, with pretence of cautioning them against *Mercenary Parliaments*, would make way for such Persons as lost their preferments upon the Revolution, or expect greater by a Change: As if these were more fit to be Trusted than they, *who are now possess'd of any Places and Preferments depending upon the Gift and Pleasure of His* Page 1.  
*present Majesty*; whose *Gift and Pleasure* must be suppos'd, tho' not nam'd.

A

What

What is the *Nature* of our *Parliaments*, and the Interest of *England* in the following choice, I should think not to be well understood by one, who is no better acquainted with the Proprieties of the *Englisb* Tongue than to suppose, that new Laws are neces-

Page 1.

And Abrogating  
such as were  
found burden-  
sum and obso-  
lete.

sary among other ends, for *Abrogating* such as were *Obsolete*, and so fell of themselves; who thinks he's very Rhetorical in talking of the *Oppression* of those *devouring Harpies*, who would tear off the yet green and *flourishing Laurels* from *King William's Majestick*

Page 8.

Does infer their  
thoughts, that  
the Majority,  
&c.

*Brows*; and, to use his own Phrase, whose diligence to support his Party, *Infers* his thoughts, that the Majority of *Electors* are capable of being impos'd upon in such a *Gross and Unexampl'd manner*, as to take measures for the preserving their Religion, Lives, Liberties and Estates from them, who have an apparent design to destroy that Government, which by God's wonderful Providence, and Favour to it, has secured those invaluable Blessings, notwithstanding the almost insuperable Difficulties, from *Domestick Divisions*, the visible effects of the *old Popish Plot* in the Corruption of the Coin; and the mighty force and artifices of an Enemy, against whom, none but His present Majesty, with an *Englisb* Parliament and Soldiers, could have made Head.

When so great a number of the Gentry of this Land were bribed by their Expectations of Rewards for joyning with the Enemy, or not opposing him; that Ninety odd of the House of Commons, and some Men of considerable Estates, refused to enter into a *Voluntary Association* for Mutual Defence against an impending Invasion; 'twas certainly happy for the Nation,

Nation, that many were by Places under this Government oblig'd, not only in Gratitude, but by immediate Interest, to secure to themselves those advantages for which others gap'd, and which they expected to gain by Sacrificing their Religion, and their Country, to a fond Ambition of making up the Train of a *Conquering Invader*.

Whoever considers impartially, will find, that 'twas as fortunate for *England*, that numbers had *Places and Preferments depending upon the Pleasure* of this Government, as it has been, that the *Church-Lands* were, upon the Dissolution of *Religious Houses*, falsely so call'd, distributed among the *Nobility and Gentry*; without which, in all probability, *England* would before now have Groan'd under a Popish Yoak: The Restitution of which, we may well take to be his desire, who plainly Insinuates, that all Persons, without distinction, who are now possess'd of any Places and Preferments depending on His Pag. 1. Majesty's pleasure, are to be refused upon the Competition for Members of the ensuing Parliament. But what Rule *infer* from this his thoughts, that all these Pag. 2. are Writers *Delinquents*, I cannot understand, unless he will have it to be a Crime to accept of any Reward for pass'd Services to the present Government, or Engagement to future.

Any Man may judge, whether he has not a strong Pag. 3. Affection for the late King *James's* Reign, who \* *Yet cannot we* seems wholly to forget what Encouragement \* *his say, that his* his Parliament gave to those arbitrary proceedings *mishmanagement* which were to make way for Popery, by their Slavish *is to be ascribed* Silence after his illegal raising of Taxes, tho' the *to the corruption* on of any Parliament sitting Grant in his time.

Grant of them had expired : And however, he shews a Manifest disaffection to this Government, in running a false and malicious parallel between the Parliaments of King *Charles II.* of *most Pious Memory*, and those which have concurred with His *present Majesty*, in preserving that *Constitution*, which they in that Debauched Reign Laboured by all means possible to destroy.

While all *Englishmen* justly abhor those, who received Places or Pensions to sell their Country ; they cannot but look upon advantages under his *present Majesty*, as so many Ensigns of Honour and Recommendations to their Choice ; and surely they cannot be forgetful of the bold steps in late Reigns towards advancing Popery, by the making Laws to ruine the Dissenters only in the first place ; the open Threats and Violence, to deprive Men of that freedom of Elections, which is an essential part of our Constitution of the main Security for the rest ; and that *Trayterous Surrender of Charters*, which look all choice from the People, and placed in a *Popish Court*.

Are these the Men to be prefer'd before those, who have merited Officers, by signalizing themselves in the War ; those particularly, who at the Siege of *Namur*, raised the *English* Glory to a greater height under King *William*, than ever it was before under any of our most Victorious Kings ? And to me it seems, that no less praise and retribution is due to them, who in Counsels have Fought and Conquer'd Crafty Leaders, exercised in all the Frauds and Tricks of former Reigns, and have given  
convinc-



convincing Proofs, that the *Nature of Englishmen* is Pag. 3.  
 not changed in them, but that their Native valour, *'Tis this has*  
 and unforced eloquence, have distinguished them *chang'd the ve-*  
 in the preservation of *England*, and thereby Enti- *ry Nature of*  
 tuled them to his *Majesty's* favour. *English Men,*  
*and of Valiant,*  
*made them*

Very few I dare say, will agree with this Gentle- *Cowards of E-*  
 man, that whoever should Vote for *any one Person so* *loquent. Dumb.*  
*Pag. 7.*  
*qualified, as much as in him lies makes a Complement*  
*of all the Liberties of England, to the insatiable Avarice*  
*and Ambition of Statesmen and Court Ministers :* Nor  
 can he be thought a Friend to *England*, who would  
 make opposing the *present Court and Ministry*, the  
*Characterristic* of a true lover of his Country, be-  
 cause 'twas so when the *Court* was in a *Foreign In-*  
*terest*, and had designs which could not be brought  
 about, but by the *subversion of the Constitution ;*  
 whereas the very being as well as security of *this*  
*Court*, depends upon the Restoring and Supporting  
 the *Fundamental Liberties* of the Nation; and above  
 all the rest, that of *free Elections*.

The false Colours in his Comparifon are so grofs,  
 that there's the less need of exposing those, with  
 which this warm Writer would deface the proceed-  
 ings of the last Parliament, to which it may seem not  
 improper to apply that of our *Saviour*, for which of  
 their good deeds would he Stone them?

The *whole House of Commons* he charges with *Eat-*  
*ing their own Words*, and *Countervoting what they had* Pag. 4.  
*just before resolved on :* but the instances are left to  
 imagination. Suppos'd *Mercenary Members* are said  
 to have Voted *their fellow Criminals innocent ;* but  
 the *Persons*, and *Proofs* of their Crimes, are to seek.

The not passing a Bill for incapacitating Members of Parliament to bear Offices, is one great aggravation; as if either to have an Office, or to be a *Parliament-Man* in King *William's* Reign, were an offence, to be punished by a new Law. While the Vote of an House of *Commons*, or *Bill* there, is by him Exalted to an Act of Parliament, their applauding His Majesty's Bounty to a Person, who has eminently served the Publick, is made a Criminal approbation of the misapplying what had been set apart for the publick Service; tho' it will be difficult for him to shew, that the Grant was of anything so much as intended to be appropriated; and tho' in the intention declared, there was an Express Reference to His Majesty's Pleasure, to Reward such as he should judge deserving. And yet if his powerful Art of perverting can succeed, the Vote of the House of *Commons* upon this occasion, shall stand recorded in their own Journals to the never-dying Infamy of that Mercenary Assembly, as he calls them. The Men of Peaceable Dispositions and considerable Estates, who were for a sufficient force to maintain the Peace, and their Estates, against Foreign and Domestick Enemies, are supposed to have turn'd Villains for pay. The Admirals are accused for their commendable Impartiality, in confessing, that the Nation could not be defended without Land as well as Sea Forces, knowing from Divine Authority, that the Eye cannot say to the Hand, there's no need of you.

Pag. 4.

1b. Of Honest  
Men Villains.

Pag. 4.

This is the substance of the Arguments, that bare-fac'd and openly avowed Corruption, had insatuated our Prudence, stagger'd our Constancy, Sullied our Reputation,



putation, and Introduced a Total Defection from all true English Principles.

Which Imputation will more justly fall upon those *Common-Wealths-Men*, or other pretended Patriots, who, to use some of this Gentlemans Elegancies, *From their Infancie had Imbibed no other notions than what conduced to the Publick Safety, whose Principles were further improved and confirmed, by the Advantages of a suitable Conversation*; And yet are now become Renegades to King James's Party, as if the Restoring him were the most proper means *Conducing to the Publick Safety*: But surely all that wish well to *England*, will apprehend Mischief to be at the Bottom, when *Herod* and *Pilat* lay aside their old Enmities.

Nor can the People of *England*, be unmindful of the fundamental Maxim of Authors, now cryed up by the *Jacobites*, as well as the *Common-Wealths-Men*, that the *Ballance of Power follows the Ballance of Property*: And therefore they will be glad to find His Majesty to secure the Ballance to his Side, by disposing the Offices of the Kingdom, to His and the Nations Friends: Their main Trouble in this matter, is to observe the Opposition to the National Interest, to be strengthened and encouraged by them, who with their false Politicks, pretend, that they who are in a Plot against this Government, are to be bought off.

If any one numerous Family can render themselves so formidable by their Union, as to make it seem His Majesties Interest, to give them the  
Choice

Choice of the most profitable Places; how strong would our present Establishment be, if none were admitted into any Employment, who had not given clear Proof of his Zeal for the Publick; and 'twere evidently known, there could be no Temptation of that kind to disserve it?

But methinks this Gentleman, shews as mean an opinion of the understandings of *Englismen*, as he does of His *Majesties*, while he hopes to wheedle them into a perswasion, that *Courts have been the same in all Ages*; and His *Majesty* into a confidence of his Zeal for his *Majesties* Honour and Service, the plain drift of whose paper is to perswade Men, that the only danger to the Constitution is from them, who are interested in the Preservation of His *Majesties* Person and Government: Nor does he Scruple to assert, *that this is the last Struggle and effort the People of England have left them for their Properties*; as if Property had been notoriously invaded by the King and his Ministers: But in Truth the Struggle which this Person must mean, can be no other, than for a new distribution of Property upon the Change, either of the form of the Government, or of the King: Whose Reign is as much reflected on as *King Charles's*, which he calls *Profligate and Villanous*: And since he is Positive, that *one Session more of the last Parliament, would infallibly have ruin'd our Constitution*; 'tis no Question whose Consent would (according to this Suggestion) *infallibly* have contributed to it's Ruine.

Pag. 2.

Pag. 7.

Tho' the Deliverance from *King James* and *Popery*, is much more than a Pretence, it cannot but be understood who is included in his Reflective Opinion, \* *That we are not quite delivered from* Pag. 6.  
*the fear of King James, who must be made the In-* In this Sense,  
*strument of our Slavery by those very Persons, who* I am of their  
*pretend their greatest Merit to consist, in delivering* Opinion that,  
*us from him.* &c.

But if his opinion were no more dangerous than his reasoning, it would do no great Hurt ; 'tis certain many cannot be wrought up by his *war-meth* to believe, that King James was a meer *Bug-bear*, while his pretended Title was supported by the Arms of *France* ; because little danger is now apprehended from his living under the Protection of that *King* ; which cannot be extended further than his Person, but by a Violation of that Peace, which all *Europe* is concerned to maintain.

Pag. 6.  
 Is it the Fear  
 of King James  
 that makes us  
 content he  
 should Live so  
 near us.

But he who represents the former use of the just fear of *King James*, as a *vile Art and Practice to Rack the Nation with Taxes*, cannot but be thought deservedly to incur the Name of *Conspirator*, which he so freely bestows upon those Members of the last Parliament, who truly merited of their Country, by making others sensible of the Danger they were in, while *King James* had hopes of Landing upon us, with great part of the force of *France*.

Tho' 'tis evident who have been the *Conspirators* ; I must confess the Word *Apostate*, cannot be applyed with much certainty, till 'tis known from what *Principle* or *Party* they are fallen :

I should be glad, if 'twere possible, that such a Parliament were chosen, wherein every Member were, as he expresses himself, *under no Temptation ; and acted by no other Motives, but the real and true interest of his Majesty, and his Dominions.*

But can he expect to be thought sincere, in his pretended desire, that their united Interest should thrive, who takes such pains to divide them, and to disable those who have given Proof of their Abilities and Zeal, to serve the *King* as the *Common Parent* of their Country ?

Pag. 5.

*These Apostates pretend to value themselves upon that most destructive project of a*  
*quer Bill*

Against this few can be thought more openly to conspire, than they who are so free in Calling others *Conspirators*, and *Apostates* ; for being eminently instrumental in Supplying the Necessities of the Publick, and in effect encreasing the *Species* of money at a time, when so much could not but lye Dead in the Mint : nothing is more certain, than that this *Expedient* was very beneficial to the Publick ; tho' the exorbitant avarice of moneyed Men, turn'd it to the prejudice of many particular Persons.

But this Gentleman must have a great opinion of the Power of his *Rhetorick*, if he thinks his *Invectives* against His *Majestie's* faithfull Subjects and Servants, can Charm the *Citizens* and *Burgesses* into a forgetfullness ; who were the Men that, before the discovery of the *Assassination-Plot*, advanced so far towards the total Subversion of that Part of the Constitution, which Preserves the Ballance of the Government, by a truly Popular Interest, in that Freedom which *Cities* and *Boroughs* have had, from  
Ages

Ages long since passed, for Chuseing fit Persons of their own Bodies, without Confining them to the Landed Gentry.

'Tis well kown who were so vain as to make their boasts, that they should keep out the *Green-Apron Men*: Therefore 'twill be but a just return, for the *Green-Apron Men* to keep them, from the like Power of Insulting over them: Nor is it to be doubted, but they will, in the most proper Method, expresse their Gratitude to Mr. *Montague*, Sir *Thomas Littleton*, Mr. *Clerk*, Sir *Joseph Tily* and others, who, if Reason could have prevailed with Men obstinately bent upon Destroying the *Constitution*; would have Argued them out of their Pernicious Attempt, for a Form of Government more near an *Oligarchy*, to bring it by degrees to a *French or Turkish Monarchy*.

Since Mankind cannot be thought wholly Disinterested, and is subject to Temptations of several kinds; the short Question to be Considered upon this *Election* is.

Who are to be Chosen as most likely to Answer the End, which this Gentleman would be thought to Propose, *The true and real Interest of His Majesty and His Dominions*; they whose Principles or Expectations Byass them towards the *Late King*, or other Change of the *Establis'd Government*; or they whose Value for that *Constitution* which King *William* Restored, that *Religion* which he Rescued, and their own share in the Benefits of His Reign, Incite them to a Vigorous pursuit of the ends, for which they are Chosen by *English Protestants*.

The



The Choice will be obvious, when Men have duly considered who ought to be refused; and I doubt not but *these Persons* will generally be Rejected with Scorn.

1. They who were for the *Common-Wealth* of a *Regency*.

2. *Non-Associators*,

3. *Non-Jurors*, or, *Late Swearers* to this Government; after the Battle at the *Boyn*, or the Peace which *France*, had wrought *Hypocritical Conversions*.

4. The Instruments of the *Tyrany* and *Usurpations* of former *Reigns*.

5. Persons justly suspected to have been in the Plot against this Government; or assisting to it, or conniving at it.

6. Such as have lost Places for adhering to the late *King*.

7. They who have manifested a desire of getting Places, or otherwise improving their Fortunes, upon the letting in of *Popery*, or *Popish Powers*.

8. They who were for Depriving the *Cities* and *Boroughs*, of the *Fundamental Liberty* of Chuseing *Representatives* from among themselves: And for defeating *Elections* in the *Counties*, after they had been made; by new contrived *Qualifications*, of doubtful construction.

FINIS.

ERRATA.

Page 3. Line 20. Read *Majestic's*. Ib. l. 22. r. this Writer's d. his, l. 23. d. Writer's. p. 4. l. 9. r. true *Englishmen*, l. 19. r. and the main; l. 20. r. too's, l. 21. r. placed it, l. 24. r. Offices.



